

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of a mediator carrying on a communication with  
2 a client terminal having a client identifier address,  
3 including:  
4 a) initializing a communication with the client  
5 terminal, including associating a particular reply  
6 address to which a reply to a message needs to be  
7 directed, including selecting the particular reply  
8 address from a multiplicity of addresses at which  
9 the mediator receives replies;  
10 b) sending at least one message to the client terminal  
11 that includes the particular reply address;  
12 c) receiving a reply to the at least one message from  
13 the client terminal at the particular reply  
14 address, the reply including the client identifier  
15 address;  
16 d) storing the reply in a matrix, the matrix including  
17 a first axis indexed by client identifier address  
18 and a second axis indexed by reply address; and  
19 e) evaluating the reply using the client identifier  
20 address and the reply address at which the reply is  
21 received.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein evaluating the reply  
2 further includes analyzing the semantics of the reply.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein initializing a  
2 communication is responsive to a set up request that  
3 identifies the client terminal and a particular service  
4 provider.

- 1 4. The method of claim 1, further including tracking which  
2 of the multiplicity of addresses are currently available  
3 for use, and initializing a communication further  
4 includes selecting the particular reply address from  
5 those addresses which are currently available for use.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein sending a message to the  
2 client terminal includes sending an SMS message which  
3 capable of being responded to with a single character  
4 reply.
- 1 6. The method of claim 4, wherein the at least one message  
2 includes a plurality of messages, the communication  
3 includes a plurality of message and reply exchanges, and  
4 initiating a communication includes associating  
5 different reply addresses with each different message.
- 1 7. The method of claim 4, wherein initializing a  
2 communication further includes selecting the particular  
3 reply address at random from those addresses which are  
4 currently available for use.
- 1 8. The method of claim 5, wherein the matrix further  
2 includes a third axis indexed by the single character  
3 reply.
- 1 9. The method of claim 6, whereby evaluating the reply can  
2 proceed even when the different replies are received in  
3 a different order than the exchanges are initiated.

1 10. The method of claim 5, wherein the mediator is  
2 simultaneously communicating with a plurality of other  
3 client terminals each having a different client  
4 identifier address.

- 1 11. A mediator that controls communications with a client  
2 terminal having a client identifier address, the  
3 mediator including:
- 4 a) a multiplicity of addresses at which the mediator  
5 is capable of receiving communications from the  
6 client terminal;
  - 7 b) logic and resources adapted to
    - 8 i) initialize a communication with the client,  
9 including associating a particular reply  
10 address to which a reply to a message needs to  
11 be directed, the particular reply address  
12 being selected from the multiplicity of  
13 addresses,
    - 14 ii) send at least one message to the client  
15 terminal that includes the particular reply  
16 address,
    - 17 iii) receive a reply from the client terminal to  
18 the at least one message at the particular  
19 address, the reply including the client  
20 identifier address,
    - 21 iv) store the reply in a matrix, the matrix  
22 including a first axis indexed by client  
23 identifier address and a second axis indexed  
24 by reply address, and
    - 25 v) evaluate the reply using the client identifier  
26 address and the reply address at which the  
27 reply is received.
- 1 12. The mediator of claim 11, wherein the logic and  
2 resources to evaluate the reply further analyzes the  
3 semantics of the reply.

- 1 13. The mediator of claim 11, wherein the logic and  
2 resources to initialize a communication includes logic  
3 and resources to associate a different particular reply  
4 address to each message when the at least one message  
5 includes a plurality of messages and the communication  
6 includes a plurality of message reply pairs.
- 1 14. The mediator of claim 13, whereby the logic and  
2 resources are adapted to process replies to messages  
3 even when the different replies are received out of  
4 order from the different messages.
- 1 15. The mediator of claim 13, wherein the logic and  
2 resources further includes logic and resources to track  
3 which of the multiplicity of addresses are currently  
4 available for use, and logic and resources to initialize  
5 a communication further includes logic and resources to  
6 select the particular reply address from those addresses  
7 which are currently available for use.
- 1 16. The mediator of claim 11, wherein the logic and  
2 resources to initialize the communication is adapted to  
3 be responsive to a set up request that identifies the  
4 client terminal and the particular service provider.
- 1 17. The mediator of claim 15, wherein the logic and  
2 resources to select the particular reply address from  
3 the multiplicity of addresses chooses the selection at  
4 random.

- 1 18. The mediator of claim 11, wherein the client identifier  
2 address is chosen from the group consisting of a  
3 client's A-subscriber's number, Calling Line Identity,  
4 e-mail address and IP address.
- 1 19. A method of a mediator authenticating a client, the  
2 client using a mobile telephonic device capable of  
3 sending and receiving SMS messages and having a client  
4 identifier address, the mediator performing acts  
5 including:  
6 a) assigning a unique reply address to an SMS message  
7 from a multiplicity of available reply addresses;  
8 b) sending the SMS message to the client at the client  
9 identifier address; and  
10 c) authenticating the client if a reply to the SMS  
11 message is received at the unique reply address.
- 1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein the unique reply address  
2 is assigned at random from among the multiplicity of  
3 available reply addresses.
- 1 21. The method of claim 19, wherein the method further  
2 includes storing the reply in a matrix including a first  
3 axis indexed by client calling line identifier number  
4 and a second axis indexed by reply address.
- 1 22. The method of claim 19, wherein the mediator includes a  
2 network server programmed to perform the method.

1 23. The method of claim 19 wherein the client's identifier  
2 address includes an identifier chosen from the group  
3 consisting of a client's A-subscriber's number, Calling  
4 Line Identity, e-mail address and IP address.

1 24. A method of a client using a client terminal device  
2 having a client identifier address communicating with a  
3 service provider through a mediator, including the acts  
4 of:

- 5 a) sending an inquiry pertaining to the service  
6 provider to the mediator using the client terminal  
7 device;
- 8 b) receiving at least one message responsive to the  
9 inquiry from the mediator, the at least one message  
10 having an associated reply address;
- 11 c) composing a reply to the at least one message; and
- 12 d) sending the reply to the associated reply address.

1 25. The method of claim 24 wherein the inquiry and reply are  
2 SMS messages.

1 26. The method of claim 24 wherein the at least one message  
2 is in a form that is capable of being responded to with  
3 a single character response, and wherein the act of  
4 composing includes choosing the single character  
5 response.

1 27. The method of claim 24 wherein the at least one message  
2 is in a form that is capable of being responded to with  
3 a number and wherein the act of composing includes  
4 choosing the number.